



Lovely Strange Dark

MINATO MACHI NEKO MACHI
"PORT TOWN CAT TOWN"
BY NANAMAKI KANAKO
CHAPTER 3

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MINATO MACHI
NEKO MACHI 3

AS FOR THE CATS



It's
been said

that God
has a hand in
every meeting
between a
witch and
a cat.

live together
with strange
cats who some-
times appear
as humans.

They
eventually
learn a bit
of magic to
help them
find happi-
ness.

Here
in this
peculiar
port town,

girls
known as
"witches"

YOU
SPEND ALL
DAY WORK-
ING AT THE
HOTEL.

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU'RE
COMPLAIN-
ING ABOUT!

IF THAT'S
TRUE, WHY
DON'T YOU
EVER COME
HOME?

YOU'RE
LYING.

Suppos-
edly.

IT'S
BEEN A
MONTH
SINCE WE
STARTED
LIVING TO-
GETHER.

SO
TELL ME,

IS THIS
WHAT LIVING
WITH A CAT'S
SUPPOSED TO
BE LIKE?

BECAUSE
SHARA
LIVES
THERE.

YOU
KNOW
I DON'T
LIKE THAT
PLACE.

hiss



Gora and
Silver Fur Ron

had just met
each other and
started living
together.



TART!

HEY!!
REN.

since cats
and humans
are different
creatures who see
the world through
different eyes.

Cats and
witches
get into
arguments
sometimes.

KANNA..?

BUT
SHE'S BEEN
HACKING
ME AND
GOING OFF
BY HERSELF
RECENTLY.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHY.

I NEVER
SEE YOU
ALL BY
YOURSELF.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

WHAT'S
WRONG?

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
WITH
YOUR WITCH,
KANNA.

THIS LADY I'D
NEVER SEEN
BEFORE CAME
TO OUR HOUSE.
SINCE THEN SHE'S
BEEN ACTING
STRANGELY.

HM??
SINCE
WHEN?

LEAVING HER.
MAYBE
THREE
MONTHS
AGO?

Like today,
she disappeared
and was taking the
train, that's how
strange.

Because
you're such
a lucky
cat!



CAN
I STAY
AT YOUR
HOUSE FOR
A WHILE?

TART,



THAT'S
RIGHT!

YOU
STARTED
LIVING WITH
A NEW WITCH,
ISN'T?



MIGHT AS
WELL JUST
LAUGH OUT
LOUD!

SORRY,
THAT'S
JUST HOW
I LAUGH.

ALREADY
GOT INTO
A FIGHT?

PFFT!

I'M
SURE YOU'VE
ALREADY
HEARD THIS
BEFORE.

THAT'S
JUST
LIKE
YOU,
REN.

God has
a hand in
every meeting
between a
witch and
a cat.

You
know.

You
should try
to stay on
good terms
with your
witch.

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
BOTHER YOU
JUST FOR
SOME WATER,
BUT THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.









but back then,

I was just a small hungry cat who couldn't hunt for himself.

IT WAS SO LONG AGO I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER,



MS. KANNA AND I

MAYBE I'M EXAGGERATING A BIT.

THE TWO OF US MIGHT BOTH BE DEAD NOW IF WE HADN'T MET EACH OTHER.



HEY! KANNA!

Take this medicine!

I'LL GO GIVE IT SOME!

And bring it to you!



IT MUST BE A STRAY.

IT'S SNOWING SO HARD, AND THAT CAT'S STILL OUT THERE.



IT MUST BE AFRAID OF PEOPLE...

IT'S GONE...

I WONDER IF IT'D EAT MY SCALLOP COOKIES.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? I'M WORRIED ABOUT IT.



Back then,
the humans
were fighting
something
called a
"war".



Ms. Karina
would put
her cookies
in the same
place day
after day.

Lots of
people got on
boats of their
homer to go
to war.



YOU CAN'T
EAT WITH
PEOPLE
WATCH-
ING

PHIL,
I GOT
IT.



And
so .



I'M SORRY
I DON'T
HAVE ANY-
THING FOR
YOU.



Including
her lover.



The next
time I met
Ms. Kanna

was after
the long
war had
ended.

GOODBYE.

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
FOOD.

NO ONE'S
SELLING SUGAR
OR FLOUR
ANYMORE.

I'LL
NEVER
HAVE A
CHANCE
TO BAKE
COOKIES
AGAIN.

LITTLE
KITTY.

HE DIED.

IT'S ALL
OVER.



YOU WERE
LOVELY, MS.
KANNA.

I was
still a
tiny runt
who could
barely
hunt for
himself.

SHAME!

It's
time
to go!

and
it was
only
this
once.

that
she
was
just so
hungry.

As she
ate the
bread.

Ms.
Kanna
told
her-
self

AM I

GOING
TO

LIVE LIKE
THIS?

FOR MY
WHOLE
LIFE, UNTIL
I DIE?

M
U
N
G
H

DAMN
IT!

F
E
A
R









AS LONG
AS I'M HAPPY,
YOU'LL GET SOME
OF THAT HAPPY-
NESS BACK
FROM ME.

TAKET...

NO
MATTER
HOW HARD
TIMES
GOT,

THAT'S
HOW WE'VE
ALWAYS
DONE IT,
RIGHT?

BUT
THE ONE
THING I
CAN DO

IS TO
BE HAPPY
FOR YOU
AND STAY
BESIDE YOU.





WHAT'S THIS?



THAT'S NOT TRUE.

BUT A ONE SHOULDN'T MIND, RIGHT?

I KNOW IT'S LATE.

LET'S GO.



GOOD EVENING, RON.

SHARA?



IT'S TART AND MS. KANNA.

I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE GOING.



BLINK

ME?

WORRYING ABOUT SOMEONE CAN'T SOME PREY YOU CATCH

Don't think you can just come in and find any you're worried

SO WHAT? I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE TWO OF THEM FIRST!



BECAUSE MS. KANNA LOOKED SO UNHAPPY THIS AFTER-NOON.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

YOU ALWAYS GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, DON'T YOU?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



Who's calling who stupid?



BUT
IT'S THE
HIGHEST
SPOT IN
TOWN.

THESE
HILLS ARE
DREADFUL



HERE.

WHOOOOOSH





SOME
SOLDIERS
WHO'D COME
BACK FROM
THE SAME
BATTLEFIELD

PICKED UP
A ROCK AND
BROUGHT
IT HOME.



IT WAS
BECAUSE

WHY?

BUT MY
MOTHER
WOULDN'T
ALLOW IT.

I KNEW I
SHOULD HAVE
GOTTEN IT TO
YOU SOONER.

SHE HAD HEARD
YOU WERE A
PROSTITUTE FOR
THE OCCUPATION
FORCES AFTER
THE WAR ENDED.



I
TOOK
THAT
ROCK

AND
BURIED IT
HERE.

AND ONE
DAY, I'LL BE
RESTING HERE
BESIDE HIM.



NO NEED TO
EXPLAIN
YOURSELF, MY
MOTHER RUSSED
UP MY JEANS
YESTERDAY.

I WANT
YOU TO
TAKE THIS
ROCK.

MS.
RHANNE



STILL,
REALITY'S
SO TOUGH
SOMETIMES.

MY LIFE
MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
SO MUCH
WORSE.

THANK
YOU, TART.

BUT IT'S
GONE BY
LIKE A DREAM,
WITH YOU AT
MY SIDE.

FOR
HIM TO
RETURN AS
A SHINY
ROCK NOW
OF ALL
TIMES.

NO!

YOU'RE
GOING TO
LIVE FOR-
EVER AND
EVER.



I FELT LIKE I
HAD FINALLY
GOTTEN SOME
CLOSURE IN
MY LIFE.

BUT YOU
KNOW,
TART,

AFTER
I BURIED
THAT ROCK
HERE.



FOR US
TO SAY
GOODBYE,
LITTLE
KITTY.

IT MIGHT
BE TIME.







GOOD
MORN-
ING.

REN.



BUT WHAT
IS TARF
GOING
TO DO

I LOVE
MY WITCH
TOO.

NOW
THAT MS.
KAMARU
SAYED
GOODBYE
TO HIM?

SORA.

TARF CAN
YOU SHOULD
ALWAYS GET
ALONG WITH
SQUADRON.



Y-YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
TRY AND
LAUGH.



GETTING
BREAKFAST. I
HAVE TO START
HUNTING FOR
MYSELF.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!



THIS IS
JUST HOW
I LAUGH.

I'M FINE.



DON'T
WORRY,
IT'LL BE
FINE!

WHAT'S
IMPORTANT IS
WHAT THE CAT
WANTS TO DO. NO
MATTER WHAT THE
WITCH SAYS!









MS.
KANNAY



HE'LL
COME TO
YOU.

AND IF
YOU'RE
REALLY
THAT CAT'S
WITCH,



YOU
SAY IN
YOUR HEART
'I LOVE
YOU'

WHILE
TURNING
AROUND
AND
PRETENDING
NOT TO SEE
THEM.



ISN'T
THAT A BIT
NAUGHTY?

The illustration
& characters are by

WHAT? YOU
JUST ABANDONED HIM?
WHAT WAS WRONG?



TO YOUR
CAT?

WHAT
HAPPENED



IT'S MY
FAULT. I
BETRAYED
HIM.



GOODBYE.

HIS EYES
LOOKED JUST
LIKE THEY DID
BACK THEN...

LITTLE
KITTY.



I'VE BEEN
HOLDING HIM
AT NIGHT, TELLING
HIM "I LOVE
YOU"...

WHAT
DO YOU
MEANT

ALL
THESE
YEARS,

I WAS
USING HIM
TO FILL UP
THE HOLE
THAT WAS
LEFT IN MY
HEART.

WHEN I
WAS REALLY
THINKING
OF SOMEONE
WHO'D DIED
YEARS AGO.



I
WAS SO
RELIEVED
WHEN I
FINALLY
SAW THAT
ROCK.

I
THOUGHT TO
MYSELF, "NOW
I CAN FINALLY
REST BESIDE
HIM."

HE WAS
WHY I
WAS SO
HAPPY.

THAT
I'D HAD
TART ALL
ALONG.

AND I
REALIZED



SO WAS
HE JUST A
SUBSTITUTE?
I KNOW HE
WASN'T!

BUT THE
WAY TART
LOOKED AT ME,
I COULD SEE
HE TRUSTED
ME, AND I
COULDN'T DO
THAT TO HIM.

I'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO
HOLD HIM THE
SAME WAY!!

THAT'S
WHY?

THAT'S
IT?

JUST
BECAUSE
OF THAT?

TART?

MS.
KANNA

IS THAT
WHY

YOU HAD
TO SAY
GOODBYE
TO ME?



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REN.



LET
ME SAY
SOME-
THING.

IF
THAT'S
WAY,

THEN
YOU'RE ONLY
THINKING OF
YOURSELF.



ABOUT
IT.

I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
IDEA.

RIGHT?

BECAUSE.

YOU
THOUGHT

WHEN
YOU SAY
"BETRAYED".



PEOPLE
KEEP CATS
TO REPLACE
THINGS
THEY'VE
LOST.



BUT

I'M

A CAT.





THE
SW
TH

1

DOES
THAT
MEAN
YOU'RE
LEAVING
ME?

YOU
SAID YOU
WERENT MY
ONE, DIDNT
YOU?



THERE
WILL BE
THINGS ABOUT
EACH OTHER
WE WON'T
UNDERSTAND.

SO
SOMETIMES,
EVEN IF GOD
DECEIVED WE
SHOULD BE
TOGETHER.

